

On June 1, 1945, Lt. Calvert and his crew of ten from the 504th Bomb Group took off from Tinian Island, in the Marianas to strike Osaka, Japan. Immediately after delivering his ordnance, his B-29 aircraft was hit and severely damaged by anti-aircraft artillery fire. Lt. Calvert's headset was blown off inflicting wounds in his scalp and left arm. His co-pilot was also wounded and unable to assist in flying the damaged B-29. With the right inboard engine on fire, Lt. Calvert placed his aircraft in a steep dive to extinguish the flames. With the fire out he tried in vain to feather the engine but the runaway propeller spun off and flew into the right outboard engine, creating a very grave situation with both engines on the right side inoperable. Lt. Calvert's crew decided to remain with the crippled B-29. Wounded and bleeding, Lt. Calvert flew solo toward the airfield at Iwo Jima. To reduce the aircraft's weight and extend its range, he proceeded to jettison all removable items, to include life rafts, reducing their chances of survival if they had to ditch the aircraft into the Pacific Ocean. Once over Iwo Jima, Lt. Calvert circled his bomber to permit other bomber aircraft to recover or bail out over the tiny island. In a feat of unprecedented airmanship and heroism, Lt. Calvert then flew a flawless approach and landing, bringing his crew to safety in an aircraft that would never fly again.

Like so many of his time, Lt. Calvert returned to Oklahoma and began a fifty-one year marriage and raised five children. He worked for 34 years as a federal employee at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City and served on his local school board and in his church. Today, at age 82, he resides with his youngest daughter, her husband and their two children, and he remains an inspiration to our generation as we look back and admire the heroes of our past. I thank him for his unwavering service and sacrifice to the United States of America. May God bless Floyd Calvert Jr. and his family.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE VALOR, DEDICATION, AND PATRIOTISM OF CHALDEAN AMERICAN VETERANS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, later this month, on June 14th, people in my home state of Michigan will be gathering at a special ceremony to honor men and women of the U.S. armed forces who have served to preserve our nation's freedom. This ceremony held by the Chaldean American Ladies of Charity will pay tribute to Chaldean American men and women who have served or are currently serving in our Nation's military.

It is particularly poignant that people are gathering to honor Chaldean American veterans on the day set aside to honor our foremost symbol of freedom: the American flag. At a time when we are reminded of the priceless

value of our many freedoms, it is important that we do not forget the heroes who fought so fearlessly and valiantly in past conflicts to protect our nation and our freedoms. Such brave men and women have preserved our liberty and democratic values and safeguarded our freedom to pursue the American dream.

The Chaldeans are people who possess a long and fascinating history. They have traditionally spoken a form of Aramaic, the language in which the New Testament was written, and possess an interesting theological history that includes a reunion with the Roman Catholic Church in 1551 A.D. This reunion led to the establishment of the Chaldean rite of the Catholic Church.

Many Chaldeans immigrated to the United States from Iraq, and have played an important part in our nation's growth and success. Detroit is privileged to be home to the largest Chaldean community in the United States. In Detroit and throughout the nation, Chaldean Americans have dedicated themselves to the making a better life in America. Detroit, the State of Michigan and our nation have benefitted from their patriotism, hard work and dedication to community, faith and family. These many contributions have greatly benefitted our nation and have included the service of nearly two hundred Chaldean Americans in the United States Armed Forces.

The entire Chaldean American community can take pride in their long and honorable tradition of service to our nation, particularly their service in our nation's armed forces. I am sure that my Senate colleagues join me and the Chaldean American Ladies of Charity in paying tribute to Chaldean American veterans.

#### REMEMBERING THE MIA'S OF SULTAN YAQUB ON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR CAPTURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the Israeli soldiers captured by the Syrians during the 1982 Israeli war with Lebanon. It is with great sadness that we mark today 20 long years of anguish for their families, who continue to desperately seek information about their sons.

On June 11, 1982, an Israeli unit battled with a Syrian armored unit in the Bekaa Valley in northeastern Lebanon. Sergeant Zachary Baumel, First Sergeant Zvi Feldman, and Corporal Yehudah Katz were captured by the Syrians that day. They were identified as an Israeli tank crew, and reported missing in Damascus. The Israeli tank, flying the Syrian and Palestinian flag, was greeted with cheers from bystanders.

Since that terrible day in 1982, the governments of Israel and the United States have been doing their utmost by working with the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross,

the United Nations, and other international bodies to obtain any possible information about the fate of the missing soldiers. According to the Geneva Convention, Syria is responsible for the fates of the Israeli soldiers because the area in Lebanon where the soldiers disappeared was continually controlled by Syria. To this day, despite promises made by the government of Syria and by the Palestinians, very little information has been released about the condition of Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, and Yehudah Katz.

Today marks the anniversary of the day that these soldiers were reported missing in action. Twenty pain-filled years have passed since their families have seen their sons, and still Syria has not revealed their whereabouts nor provided any information as to their condition.

One of these missing soldiers, Zachary Baumel, is an American citizen from my home of Brooklyn, New York. An ardent basketball fan, Zachary began his studies at the Hebrew School in Boro Park. In 1979, he moved to Israel with other family members and continued his education at Yeshivat Hesder, where religious studies are integrated with army service. When the war with Lebanon began, Zachary was completing his military service and was looking forward to attending Hebrew University, where he had been accepted to study psychology. But fate decreed otherwise and on June 11, 1982, he disappeared with Zvi Feldman and Yehudah Katz.

During the 106th Congress, I co-sponsored and helped to pass Public Law 106-89, which specifies that the State Department must raise the plight of these missing soldiers in all relevant discussions and report findings to Congress regarding developments in the Middle East. We need to know that every avenue has been pursued in order to help bring about the speedy return of these young men. Therefore, I strongly feel that we must be sure to continue the full implementation of Public Law 106-89, so that information about these men can be brought to light.

Zachary's parents Yonah and Miriam Baumel have been relentless in their pursuit of information about Zachary and his compatriots. I have worked closely with the Baumels, as well as the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the American Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers, and the MIA Task Force of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. These groups have been at the forefront of this pursuit of justice. I want to recognize their good work and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting their efforts. For two decades these families have been without their children. Answers are long overdue.

I am not only saddened by the plight of Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, and Yehudah Katz, but I am disheartened and angered by the fact that even as we